

Here Are Some Means of Livelihood That Sound Like Sheer Nonsense

Nevertheless, They're Real Earnest Toil for Those Who Depend Upon Them for Bread and Butter and Beef, and Census Bureau Is Making a Complete List of Them.

AS A PART of the task of compiling the Thirteenth Census of the United States the bureau at Washington will publish a report on the various occupations by which men and women in this country earn their daily bread. Though it will be many months before this report will be given to the public, a conservative estimate places the number of classifications of industry at between seven and eight thousand. In compiling the list "rock bottom" is being sought in every case. While a carpenter is a carpenter, for instance, he may be employed in any one of the numerous branches of carpentry, and according to his branch he is to be classified.

A LIVING IN BOTTLED SMOKE.

It seems a safe prediction, for example, to state that there will be found only one man in the entire country making a living from bottling the smoke of burning hickory wood. This man, who lives in Kansas City, contends that his bottled smoke, let loose in an air-tight compartment in which meat has been placed, will produce the same effect upon the meat as though cured by hickory smoke in the usual manner.

The compilation of such a volume is an enormous and tedious task. The work is being done under the direction of William C. Hunt, chief statistician of the division of population. He has held that position for many years, having been in charge of similar work during the tabulation of four census returns. The more commonplace occupations, including one-half of the total, have already been "punched" by the clerks on the card indexes for general facts concerning population.

But the unusual occupations to be listed require special classification and are now being prepared by a trained corps of ninety clerks. Special machinery and tabulating blanks are necessary, with abbreviations and space for the entry of an unusual number of facts concerning the individual and his occupation. As with most of the other work in the census bureau, the record is made by electric and hand-punching machines.

Not every one is aware that there are such persons as judges, fakers, ploughers, slingers, husters, niggerheads, heaters out, cripple chasers and pancake makers. Yet they are one and all engaged in legitimate occupations connected with the very necessities of life. The fakers, for example, would be the uninitiated expect to find profit in raising billboards for their legs or skunks for their oil. Two New Jersey women, however, are making a good livelihood by so doing, and a certain California woman gets over \$100 an ounce wholesale for the seeds of petunias.

A "DESTROYER OF MEN."

In some of the reports of the census enumerators in the field are found tabulations so unusual that they require no end of labor in properly classifying them at the bureau. One man frankly asserted that he was a "boozefighter," and another, who works in a saloon, styled himself a "destroyer of men." "Fat men" is applied to certain individuals in the printing business who always try to secure the easiest part of the work connected with their trade. "Breaking and less" is given as the occupation of an individual who breaks the hind legs of animals killed in packing houses.

Such occupations as "pouncer," in a hat factory; "toiles," a maker of stogies; "whittler," in a straw works; "dock walloper," a "longshoreman," "sugarer," in a dock factory; "conger," in connection with "casser," in a glass factory; "scabber," in quarrying; "flosser," in a corset factory; and "dubler," in shipbuilding are all unusual occupations that must be listed.

In the national capital especially are there a large number of people who earn their living by performing unusual tasks. The majority of them are employed in the "Uncle Sam" in his various departments of the National Museum. Henry Hendley, who is known as the official portrait-bust maker of the American features for a unique portrait gallery of the North American redskin. The government is interested in the preservation of types of the pure American Indian and in the changes in their facial characteristics step by step as they adopt civilized customs. During the course of a year many Indians come to Washington to see the President or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. If so persuaded, they appear before Mr. Hendley.

To secure a lifelike bust for the gallery Hendley has to make a plaster cast of each Indian's face and head. Not every gentle Hiawatha will stand for this process, for fear.

For instance, he may be employed in any one of the numerous branches of carpentry, and according to his branch he is to be classified.

The census of 1900 showed only a little more than three hundred divisions of labor, having been compiled without the delicate distinction now being made. Under this new system of tabulation many of the heads of classification will include but a few individuals and some only a single person. It will bring to light not a few queer ways of earning one's livelihood now existing. And many of them will be found so unusual as to stand in a class by themselves.

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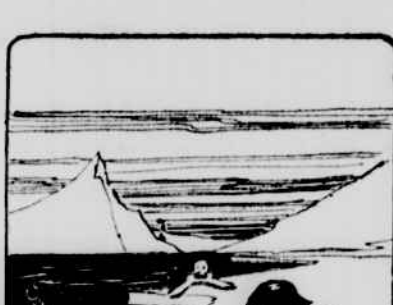
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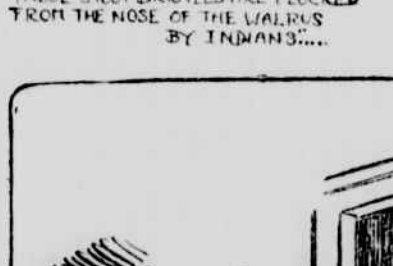
SCENE IN THE CENSUS BUREAU AT WASHINGTON, SHOWING THE SECTION NAMED "POPULATION DIVISION."



MRS. MABEL LEROY SIGNS THE NAME OF PRESIDENT TAFT SIX THOUSAND TIMES IN A SINGLE MONTH.



THESE STOUT BRISTLES ARE PULLED FROM THE NOSE OF THE WALRUS BY INDIANS.



UNIONTOWN, PA., BOASTS A FAIR DEPUTY SHERIFF.



SHE IS GIVEN A GOOD DRESSING DOWN BEFORE THE ANGRY CUSTOMER AND PERMANENTLY DISCHARGED.

Bureau more easily to ascertain climatic changes and atmospheric conditions in different parts of the world. Maps for the use of the bureau are being made by the National Geographic Society. It is intended as a warning against allowing people ignorant of geological conditions to dig wells and as a plea for the artesian well. This has a painted background of sky and trees, with two wooden structures, one a dwelling, where painted figures gaze from the windows, and the other a barn. Pigs, cows and chickens are depicted themselves in the foreground. In the foreground a cross-section of earth reveals that a straight drop of soil, then a stratum of rock, and lastly, a subterranean sand. Here the well has been sunk. Evidently, the water must be pure "because it comes up through rock." But such is not the case. Nature has so arranged the features at this point that they all slant from the stable toward the well. And down through the soil and rock to the sand goes the pollution from the barnyard to the water supply.

CLEVER WORK BY WOMEN.

Upon Mrs. Wills A. Leonard, of the Treasury Department, falls the bulk of the work of detecting counterfeit money. As the original Sherlock Holmes of the "queer" she has brought destruction to clever counterfeiters to the extent of thousands of dollars. For over forty years she has been considered an expert in her unusual occupation. While specializing on the detection of counterfeiters she has counted more money than would pay off several national debts. In a single day she has counted over \$120,000. Sixteen thousand notes is regarded as a good day's work, but Mrs. Leonard has handled as high as 25,000. The limitation is detected from the real by its "feel," its coloring, size, engraving work, and especially the vignette portrait. Mrs. Leonard believes that a perfectly engraved counterfeit note has never been produced.

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In the same department are three scientists engaged in the interesting occupation of examining the contents of the stomachs of birds. They have done nothing else for the last two years, and are trying to find out whether certain birds are the friends or enemies of farmers. Special agents in the field slay the birds by the hundreds and ship their stomachs to Washington in alcohol. Then the stomachs are microscopically examined by the three scientists, who tabulate their findings.

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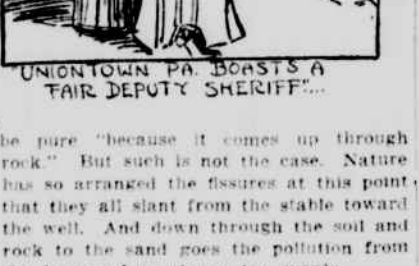
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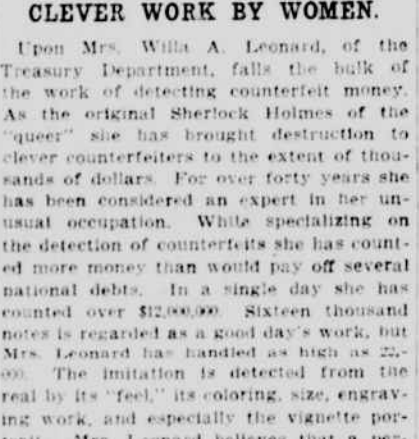
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RATTLESNAKES BY THE POUND.

Every September a Newton, N. J., man ships fifty pounds of rattlesnakes to the New York Zoological Garden. After catching them on their native heath he backs them in a box with a small screen over them, and then turns the hissing, buzzing load over to the express company.

Another man, from Seattle, finds it a profitable business to secure the mustaches from walrus killed in Bering Strait and sell them to the Chinese for tooth-picks.

These stout bristles are plucked from the nose of the walrus by Indians, tied into small bundles and sold by him on the Pacific Coast to agents who ship them to China, where they are in great demand. In an aged bull walrus the bristles are about a foot long and as thick as the lead in a pencil. Besides being extremely tough, they can be pushed between the teeth without injuring the enamel. Last year the man in question sold twenty bushels of them at a profit of nearly \$900.

New York boasts the only repairer of cigar store Indians in the country; an artist who spends the entire year in drawing caricatures used in the so-called comic valentines; a man who, day in and day out, takes several dime novels and pieces them together so as to form one continuous story for publication as a book; two women wireless operators, one on the top of a Fifth Avenue hotel and the other on an ocean liner sailing from New York, and two coopers who have a monopoly on packing money into casks for shipment by New York banks to foreign countries.

One of the queerest of occupations is that of a Richmond (Va.) woman who for fifteen years has been chaperoning what has come to be known as the "Cupid special" between that city and Washington. Twice a year this woman organizes these excursions by rail in a special train to the capital city. Always, somehow, there are at least a half dozen couples who want their matrimonial knot tied in the shadow of the Capitol's dome; hence the sobriquet.

Sod for a lawn, of a vivid green color and with a tuft as thick and close as velvet, will yield a profit of from \$50 to \$60 an acre, according to a woman near a large Middle Western city, who has twelve acres of land under cultivation for that purpose. Each acre can be harvested only once every three years, so she is not making a fortune at her unique task. She is, however, making a comfortable living out of it.

WOMEN WITH IDEAS.

Another woman living near Pittsburgh earns her daily bread by raising Persian cats and selling them for from \$25 to \$500 each. She has become an expert in breeding animals of class, and frequently makes large sales to wealthy cat fanciers. Still another woman, the wife of a Pennsylvania farmer, clears on the average \$600 a year by raising pigeons.

Women police-men are becoming really quite commonplace. Uniontown, Penn., boasts a fair deputy sheriff, who is a graduate of a well known Southern college for women. Los Angeles has a woman who is the first policeman ever appointed in this country, and Long Beach, a seashore town in the same state, has a Wellesley graduate, a daughter of a millionaire, on its force.

In the business world in Gotham there are two women—and maybe more—who occupy unique positions. One of them is employed by a number of wholesale millinery and dress goods houses to entertain women buyers from different parts of the country. She entertains them at dinner, and then takes them to the theatre, charging every item up on her expense account, of course, to the house employing her in each instance. Her individual charge is approximately one-fourth of the total expense.

The other woman makes a business of being discharged from the big store in which she is "employed" once or a dozen times a day if occasion demands. When a haughty, pompous customer complains of negligence, or impertinence, or what-not on the part of a clerk, the woman in question is summoned to the front office as the "discharge" in charge of